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09/826,183	04/04/2001	Ruggero Maria Santilli	3293.004A	9175
24040	7590	02/13/2006	EXAMINER	
DENNIS G. LAPOINTE LAPOINTE LAW GROUP, PL PO BOX 1294 TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34688-1294			TOOMER, CEPHIA D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1714	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment filed January 25, 2006. The finality of the last Office action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-11, 13-25, 27-50, 52-62, 64, 66-89, 91, 95-98 and 100-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the disclosed invention is inoperative and therefore lacks utility. All of the instant claims are drawn to a chemical composition comprising a population of clusters of one of a molecule, a dimer and an atom and combinations thereof in combination with another molecule, dimer or an atom, and any combination thereof which is unidentifiable under currently available detectors. At page 3, last paragraph through page 4, lines 1-17, applicant states:

The exposure of a gas at atmospheric pressure to an electric arc may also create clusters. They are generated, however, in such small numbers as to be undetectable. Accordingly, these clusters have no industrial or consumer value such as those that may be created by the arc disclosed in an unrelated invention described in U.S. Patent No. 5,487,874 to Gibboney Jr. Therefore, the exposure of a

molecular species of a gas to an electric arc leaves the original molecular species mostly unchanged in the sense that the species remains an essentially pure population of conventional molecules. Accordingly, only when a gas is forced to pass at high pressure through a restricted area surrounding an electric arc of a PlasmaArcFlow Reactor of the present invention can the chemical species of clusters be produced in which a chemical species of molecules is turned into an essentially pure population of clusters.

It is clear from known principles of physics and chemistry that the instant compositions cannot exist according to conventional theory. No assertions of such a population of clusters have been recognized or verified by the scientific community.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1-11, 13-25, 27-50, 52-62, 64, 66-89, 91, 95-98 and 100-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

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The specification does not enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make a population of clusters of a molecule, a dimer, an atom and combinations with another molecule, dimer, or atom and any combination thereof wherein the clusters are detectable via peaks in mass spectrometry, and wherein said clusters have no infrared signature for a gas or ultraviolet signature for a liquid, in that it would require undue experimentation to do so.

Factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure would require undue experimentation include, (1) the breadth of the claims, (2) the nature of the invention, (3) the state of the prior art, (4) the level of one of ordinary skill, (5) the level of predictability in the art, (6) the amount of direction provided by the inventor, (7) the existence of working examples and (8) the quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure. In re Wands, 858 F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

(1) the breadth of the claims

Since all of the claims encompass a population of clusters, and it has been shown hereinbefore with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 for inoperability that such cannot exist, the claims are not enabled. The question of whether a specification provides an enabling disclosure under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and whether an application satisfies the utility requirement of §101 are closely related. Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp., 190 F.3d 1350, 1358, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1034 (Fed. Cir. 1999). To satisfy the enablement requirement of 112, first paragraph, a patent application must adequately disclose the claimed invention so as to enable a

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person skilled in the art to practice the invention at the time the application was filed without undue experimentation. Enzo Biochem, Inc. v. Calgene, Inc., 188 F.3d 1362, 1371-72, 52 USPQ2d 1129, 1136 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The utility requirement of §101 mandates that the invention be operable to achieve useful results. Brooktree Corp v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., 977 F.2d 1555, 1571, 24 USPQ2d 1401, 1412 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Thus, if the claims in an application fail to meet the utility requirement because the invention is inoperative, they also fail to meet the enablement requirement because a person skill in the art cannot practice the invention. Process Control, 190 F.3d at 1358, 52 USPQ2d at 1034.

(2) the nature of the invention

As stated above, the vast majority of the scientific community has held the belief that a population of clusters that are detectable via peaks in mass spectrometry but not by IR or UV spectrometry is not attainable. Accordingly, the nature of the invention is such that it would be startling if it were operative, thus requiring greater detail and guidance than that found in the instant specification to provide enablement.

(3) the state of the prior art

There appears to be no prior art showing materials that qualify as a population of clusters of a molecule, a dimer, an atom and combinations with another molecule, dimer, or atom and any combination thereof wherein the clusters are detectable via peaks in mass spectrometry, and wherein said clusters have no infrared signature for a gas or ultraviolet signature for a liquid.

(4) the level of one of ordinary skill

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Since even the most highly skilled physicists and chemists would agree that according to conventional theory, the instant invention cannot be produced, the threshold of enablement is not met on pages 1-57 of the instant specification.

(5) the level of predictability in the art

It would be most unpredictable that a population of clusters of a molecule, a dimer, an atom and combinations with another molecule, dimer, or atom and any combination thereof wherein the clusters are detectable via peaks in mass spectrometry, and wherein said clusters have no infrared signature for a gas or ultraviolet signature for a liquid has been produced, by the instant methods or otherwise. See the reasoning presented hereinbefore with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 for inoperability.

(6) the amount of direction provided by the inventor

It is the examiner's position that applicant has not provided sufficient guidance throughout the specification to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the instant invention. The instant specification is devoid of direction and guidance necessary to enable the skilled artisan to identify or produce a population of clusters of a molecule, a dimer, an atom and combinations with another molecule, dimer, or atom and any combination thereof wherein the clusters are detectable via peaks in mass spectrometry, and wherein said clusters have no infrared signature for a gas or ultraviolet signature for a liquid. While applicant generally alludes to "a population of such clusters", applicant has not set forth any positive or specific process steps which would allow one of ordinary skill to produce these clusters. It is the examiner's position

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that long and tedious trail and error would await any person skilled in the art reading applicant's specification and attempting to detect or produce a population of clusters of a molecule, a dimer, an atom and combinations with another molecule, dimer, or atom and any combination thereof wherein the clusters are detectable via peaks in mass spectrometry, and wherein said clusters have no infrared signature for a gas or ultraviolet signature for a liquid.

(7) the existence of working examples and (8) the quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention

The quantum of proof required to establish enablement is inextricably linked with the degree of unpredictability of the relevant art.

The art of molecular clusters is an extremely unpredictable one. Small changes can result in dramatic changes in or loss of properties. The amount and type of examples necessary to support broad claims increases as the predictability of the art decreases. See In re Fisher, 166 USPQ 18, 24 and In re Angstadt and Griffen, 190 USPQ 214, 218. Claims broad enough to cover a large number of compositions that do not exhibit the desired properties fail to satisfy the requirements of 35 USC 112. See In re Cook, 169 USPQ 298, 302 and Cosden Oil v. American Hoechst, 214 USPQ 244, 262. Merely reciting a desired result does not overcome this failure. In re Corkill, 226 USPQ 1005, 1009.

It should be noted that at the time the invention was made, the theoretical mechanism of a population of clusters was not well understood. (This is still the case today). Accordingly, there appears to be little factual or theoretical basis for extending

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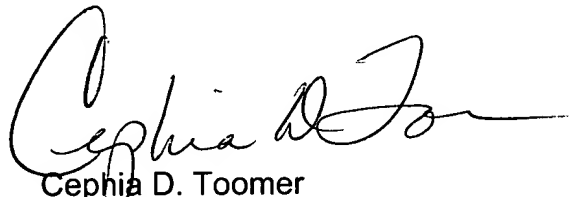
the scope of the claims much beyond the proportions and materials actually demonstrated in Gibboney (US 5,487,874), wherein Applicant alleges that a population of clusters are formed but are undetectable. A "patent is not a hunting license. It is not a reward for the search, but a reward for its successful conclusion", Brenner v. Manson, 383 US 519, 148 USPQ 689.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cephia D. Toomer whose telephone number is 571-272-1126. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Primary Examiner
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